STATEMENTS BY MINISTER

Re: Bodo Agitation

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): Madam,...

TH DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Those who have asked for it, they are not here.

AN HON. MEMBER: They are outside. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jamu and Kashmir): Madam, my humble request is that those Members who are outside should come before the Home Minister makes the Statement.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: They are coming (*Interruptions*). They are coming.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Those who walked out were opposing the Quit India Movement in 1942. That is why they walked out. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Madam Deputy Chairman, this morning an hon. Member raised a question and you were kind to observe that I would come back to the House. I also submitted that I was likely to meet the hon. Chief Minister of Assam. We had a meeting and as a result of that meeting I am making a brief statement. I have had a talk with the hon. Chief Minister and I am apprising the House about it. After the satement has been read, I will request the hon. Members not to raise many questions because the statement itself will make it very clear that we are starting the process.

Madam, the Chief Minister of Assam met me today in my office. We discussed the issues pertaining to the current agitation started by the All Bodo Students Union and others in some parts of Assam for the purpose of starting joint talks by the Assam Government with the All Bodo Students Union, the leaders of the agitation and the Government of India in Delhi. The Chief Minister of Assam will send a communication to me. There was an agreement between the Chief Minister and me on the question of making efforts to find a solution within the framework of the Constitution of India.

(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a very brief statement. You listen to it. We could not prepare. The Home Minister is reacting within one day. He has come forward to make the statement.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: I am only passing the information. It is not a statement. The Chief Minister of Assam met me today in my office. We discussed issues pertaining to the current agitation started by the All Bodo Students' joint talks by the Assam Government with the All Bodo Students' Union, the leaders of the agitation and the Goverment of India in Delhi. The Chief Minister of Assam will send a communication to me. There was an agreement between the Chief Minister of Assam and me on the question of making efforts to find a solution within the framework of the Constitution of India. We also appeal to the leaders of the agitation to stop violence and withdraw all agitations including the call for a thousand-hour bandh in order to facilitate the negotiated settlement in Delhi.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Nagen Saikia.

AN HON. MEMBER: Madam...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It was his request. You did not make the original request.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA (Assam): Madam Deputy Chairman, I have heard the hon. Home Minister about the agreement that has been arrived

at today with the Chief Minister of Assam But my point is that if the Central Government is not sincere enough, then no settlement can be arrived at. I have some questions to ask. I want to know from the hon. Home Minister whether ABSU leaders met the Home Minister and if so, when. What was the reply given by the Home Minister to them earlier? Let me add that I put this question in the House on the 27th of July and the hon. Home Minister, in his reply, said that he did not meet any ABSU leaders. But on 12th May, 1989, when we called the attention of the Home Minister to the Bodo agitation, Shri Santosh Mohan Dev, Minister of State for Home Affairs, in his reply, stated that some ABSU leaders came to Delhi and met him. I want a clear reply from the Home Minister. Today Mr. Buta Singh is here. I want to know whether they met and what was the reply of the Home Minister at that time.

My second question is this. On 12th May, I raised this question. It was published in a magazine "Surya India". I raised the question on that day. On 25th February, 1989, as was reported in the magazine a secret meeting was held by some officials of the Home Ministry with the ABSU leaders at Calcutta. It was denied by the State Home Minister on that day. But there was circumstantial evidence to show that the meeting was held and some Home Ministry officials were there, and they talked with the ABSU leaders in Calcutta. I want to know from the Home Minister whether the Government of Assam complained of the involvement of some security agencies under the Central Government, viz. SIB, BSF, etc., that they are deeply involved in the agitation. It is a very grave, very serious allegation. It has come out recently in a paper, in the 'Sunday Observer' where it has been elaborately stated as to how these wings of the Home Ministry have been engaged in imparting training in guerila warfare tactics to the Bodo extremists in the dense forests of Arunachal Pradesh, North Assam and Bhutan. I want to know whether some ex-Servicemen of the Army, some BSF and Assam Rifles people have been engaged to impart training to those extremists in those places. Another news item was published in most of the papers in Assam and also in the national papers that a Bodo extremist, namely Shri Sonaram Buglary, when he was arrested by the police, he admitted that they met the Union Home Minister and at his suggestion, they dropped 89 demands out of 92 demands of theirs, and they were suggested to stick to 3 demands, and the major demand is the demand for a separate State so that the Central Government could intervene at a convenient time. I want to know whether the Chief Secretary of Assam in last February made a complaint to the Union Home Minister about the supicious activities of one of the IPS officials of the Kerala cadre that he is working as the linkman between the ABSU extremists and the Cabinet Secretariat. Moreover, Madam, I want to know whether there are three other IPS officials of a higher cadre who have been engaged in monitoring all these things. One is stationed at Calcutta, one is stationed in Kanapara in Guwahati, and the other at Siliguri to monitor all these things and to help the Bodo extremists to go on with their violent agitation. (*Time bell rings*) I want to know from the hon. Home Minister as to how many people have been killed till today by the Bodo extremists in Assam, and whether the Central Government, the Home Ministry is going to take full responsibility for all these killings, all this arson, and all damages that they have caused in the State of Assam.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE (Assam): It is a funy statement.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: It is not funny because it is the Home Ministry which is involved in the agitation...

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: What is your Government doing there?

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Let the Home Minister answer. I am not seeking the answer from you.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Your State Government is unable to protect the people there...

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Please sit down.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: You canot ask me to sit down. You have some courtesy. You cannot control the situation...

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHARKRAVARTY (Assam): What can the Assam Government do? You are sending hostile forces there...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: You are fooling the nation...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please. I have your name on the list. You can speak and you can seek clarifications. You ask the Home Minister as to what the problem is. Don't disturb the House.

Mr. Saikia, please be brief.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Madam, I shall be brief. The SSB, the Special Security Bureau, the SFF, the Special Froniter Force, these two wings of the law have been engaged in training the Bodo extremists in the Bongaigaon centre and the Borpeta centre. One SSB officer, as reported in the press, has admitted the involvement of the organisation in training the Bodo youth in guerilla warfare. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): He is reading like a Minister of the Government. May I know the source of his information?

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Madam, one SSB officer of the middle rank, as reported in the press, has admitted before the press that the organisation is training the Bodo youth in guerilla warfare activities. It is the most horrifying method for the people of the country, and for the whole nation. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please ask the questions.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: These are some questions that have now arisen in the minds of the people of Assam. He has made a statement, not a statement, he has read out the agreement that was today made by him with the Chief Minister of Assam. That agreement, that letter, does not speak anything. We want that we should arrive at a solution and we want to know whether it is a tripartite talk or any other nature of talk. But talks should be held immediately to arrive at a solution. But if the Home Ministry or the Government is making intrigues incessantly and if he incites the Bodo agitators to resort to violence there then I am afraid there will be no solution of the problem. Therefore, I want clarification from the Home Minister on these points.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: (West Bengal): At the outset, let me ask the Home Minister and his two learned colleagues about the complaint that is appearing consistently that the RAW has a hand in the Bodo episode in Assam. There is a specific complaint and the specific complaint earns objectivity because of all that had happened in Tripura. It is a well known fact that in Tripura the Central Government agencies under the splendid guidance of the Home Ministry of the Government of India had given them all help to destabilise the Government in Tripura, paralyse the administration, and ultimately create a situation where that Government could be toppled through the so-called elections. Actually history is repeating itself in Assam also. Since Assam is having a non-Congress Government, therefore efforts are being made to make use of this Bodo problem, Bodo movement, so that the Government can be toppled. (Inter-

ruptions). I am coming to it. I know my party.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Do you know the views expressed by your party leaders in Assam? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam Chairperson, will you kindly restore the House?

I am a member of the national council, the highest body of the party. Therefore, it appears to me that I know the party position better than somebody who is outside the party. Point No. 2, the Bodo people might be having some grievance and to remove the grievance is the stand of the Communist Pary there. That is number one. But another aspect is to make use of the grievance of the Bodo people so that the Government of Assam is destabilised. That is my second point. And it cannot be denied that everything is sought to be done to destabilise the Government in Assam in the same way the Government in Tripura has been destabilised. Who does not know that at the initial stage RAW had a hand in the GNLF movement in West Bengal? Who does not know that RAW has still a hand in the tribal uprising in Tripura? Therefore, in the same way, in continuation of the same process, the Central Government is following a stick and correct policy. It is discussing the problem with the Chief Minister of Assam. At the same time, it is....

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: What about Gauri Choubey in West Bengal?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is astounding ignorance on the part of hon. Members that is sometimes baffling to us. Gauri Choubey is not a party to the Bodo movement nor he belongs to RAW. Therefore, how do you ask about Gauri Choubey?

Anyway, my point is, Central Government is following a carrot and stick policy. On the one hand it is discussing the problem with the Chief Minister of Assam and is making statement on the floor of the House that violence should be avoided and problem should be solved, and on the other hand, it is extending in a clandestine way all possible help so that Bodo movement can assume a violent character. That is my first question to him. Will the Minister categorically say that some Central agencies are not giving any help? Is it not true that it is in Dhaula Kuan, in Delhi itself, that there is some sort of a contact centre? It is not far off in Calcutta. It is in Dhaula Kuan, right in Delhi. Is it not true that a gentleman whose name is * IPS of Kerala cadre, is a contact man between Cabinet Secretary and the...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would not allow names to be taken.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Do you understand the problem?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I understand the problem very well. But please don't take the names. It will not go on record.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Let me tell you my problem. The problem is, I must establish the case of complicity and the name comes in that perspective.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You know it very well; you have been a Member of this House for a long time and you know it that you don't take the name of a person who is not present over here and you have no sure evidence or anything. You can mention the post or whatever inference you like, but not the name and I will not allow it.

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*Not recorded.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I abide by the decision of the Chair. I make the statement on the floor of the House. If the Home Minister is ready, I am ready to give him the names, their designations, location of the office. I say there has been a contact centre right in Delhi in Dhaula Kuan. It is not in the forests of Assam; it is not on the soil of Calcutta; it is right in Delhi that there is a contact man. Therefore, Madam, it is unbelievable for me that Bodo...

SHRI BUTA SINGH: In Delhi there is the Home Minister also. Why don't you say...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is not in your residence that there is a contact centre. It is somewhere in Dhaula Kuan.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): He might be the contact man himself.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please be brief; you ask clarifications.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is unbelievable to believe on my part that Bodo rebels are making use of land-mines, remote controlled mines, modern weapons. If they have not been supplied by RAW, it is impossible. Either you are giving them the arms or you are arranging them to be smuggled from other countries. Therefore, it is the Government of India which is responsible for all.....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to remind you that for making an allegation, according to the rules, you have to substantiate it. Don't make such inferences. I took upon myself to ask the Home Minister to come with a statement to the House and he was kind enough to come and make it here, only on the request of the Members from Assam because it is a serious matter he thought and the Chairman thought. But please don't make it in such a way that it looks bad. Please; I would request you very humbly if nothing else can work.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Is his kindness to be reciprocated with a fluid statement or I have to make an objective statement? I am a responsible Member and in the same way he is a responsible Minister.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is why I expect from you very responsible queries, not an irresponsible speech.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I stand to probe before the House. If there is any enquiry, I stand to prove. Let the Home Minister stand up and say that he is ready to face an enquiry. I stand to prove that remote controlled weapons are being made use of by the rebels and it is inconceivable to believe that these weapons are being manufactured by the rebels. They are being supplied by people or agencies who are connected with the Home Ministry. Let the Home Ministry deny it.

Madam, my last point is, Indian federalism is at stake. Indian federalism is at stake because, the way the Central Government has been trying to topple the elected Governments in different parts of the country because they belong to Opposition, taking recourse to rendering help, in all possible ways, to every form of mass discontent, is, by itself, a dangerous precedent. Supposing, the political complexion in the country changes and a new Government takes over at the Centre and if that Central Government takes recourse to the same methods, what will happen? Indian democracy will be in peril. Therefore, I would like to know whether you are going to follow a policy of tolerance, or, you are going to follow a policy of destabilising the Government of Assam in the way you have been doing. My last question is.....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That was your last question.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I would like to know whether the Central Government is ready to work with the Assam Government hand-in-hand, not in words but in deeds, to settle the problem posed by the Bodos.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sukomal Sen. I need not remind hon. Members that they should be brief. They should not go into the details but only seek clarifications. No speeches.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): Only clarifications, Madam. Our problem is that the biggest destabiliser of the country is the Home Ministry. This is our problem. They are destabilising the whole country. The entire country has been ruined by them.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am very very sorry. I am very much pained. Today, we are not discussing the working of the Home Ministry. We are only discussing the Bodo agitation.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam, on a point of order.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, Mr. Narayanasamy. You do not know when to raise a point of order. I am on my legs. (*Interruptions*) You read the rules first and then get up. Mr. Sukomal Sen, I would request you.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, my compliments to you on your decision.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, I am on a point of order. He is directly accusing the Home Minister. He said that the Home Minister is 60:40 f r the Municipal Councils words should be removed from the record. There is no substance in it. This is my point of order.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, if you had listened to me, you would have known what I said. I said that we are not discussing the working of the Home Ministry. We are only discussing the Bodo agitation and only questions concerning that should be asked and not what the Home Ministry is doing. Only this much I would allow. Mr. Sukomal Sen, please do not go into the details.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Here is no question of discussing the performance of the Home Ministry. The only thing is that this problem comes under the purview of the Home Ministry. That is why I mentioned.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please confine yourself only to seeking clarifications on the Bodo agitation.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: I shall confine myself only to this.

Another problem is the Government is accustomed to fishing in troubled waters because they feel that if the waters get troubled, they will gain something. They have done it everywhere in the country. Again they are doing it. In regard to the Bodo agitation, there is a report that RAW is deeply involved. My friend referred to the Gorkhaland agitation. It was not a Communist Party newspaper or magazine. It was the 'Illustrated Weekly of India' which carried documentary evidence about RAW's involvement in the Gorkhaland agitation. Everybody knows...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): Your Chief Minister came out with a statement that he supplied arms to his cadres. You talk about that.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: What Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev did in Tripura, that also is known to everybody. (*Interruptions*).

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Broken gramophone record. Go on saying the same thing.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: What Mr. Chidambaram and others are doing in other places in the country is also known to everybody.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You will discover it tomorrow!

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Bodo agitationists are conducting a guerilla-type warfare and are in possession of modern arms and weapons. Assuming, for argument's sake, that the Assam Government is an intfficient Government, still, the Central Government comes into the picture. The Central Government has its intelligence network throughout the country. What is the information of the Home Ministry that if RAW has not trained these Bodo agitationists in guerilla warfare and RAW is not supplying arms and weapons, how these weapons and arms are coming in their hands? That clarification I want. (*Inerruptions*). Why do you laugh?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: What else?

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: The country is getting ruined and you are laughing.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You are making a mockery of the clarification.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Like Emperor Nero was playing the music when Rome was burning, Shri Buta Singh is laughing when the country is burning. Please be serious.

AN HON. MEMBER: When Punjab is burning.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: The whole country is burning.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would rather be happy if everyday we laughed instead of getting agitated. There is no bar on laughing.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: But not allow the country to burn. We should laugh but not when the country is burning. Madam, only for the next four-five months you are in power. After that you will not sit there, you will come here. So, for these four-five months, please try to be little serious.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: I am not laughing.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: You are not laughing, you are crying for your prospective defeat, that I can understand.

So, the Home Ministry must have some information about it. Many policement have been killed, many police vehicles have been destroyed and there is a pattern in all these killings, putting fire to school buildings and other places. What is the study of the Home Ministry, what is the pattern that is being followed in the Bodo agitation, whether they are being trained by any foreign agents, by any foreign country or they are being trained inside our country? Home Ministry must be having some information. I would like the Home Minister to share that information with the Parliament.

About the solution of the Bodo agitation, I want to express explicitly that our party does not support all the policies of Assam Government in regard to the minorities. We have our differences with them, but in regard to the Bodo agitation what are the suggestions put forward by the Central Government to the Assam Government for solving the problem? This agitation has engulfed the whole of Assam. Everyday we hear the

news of strike, paralysing the traffic, paralysing everything, bundhs, rail traffic is halted and people are put in a difficult situation. Everyday innocent people are being killed. What are the concrete suggestions put forth by the Home Ministry to the Assam Government for a solution? Have you suggested regional autonomy within the framework of Assam because we are deadly against separating Assam any further? Assam has been separated several times and we are deadly against that. I would request the Central Government to clarify what solution they have suggested to the Assam Government. Or if they have not suggested any solution will the Central Government continue playing with the fire till the Assam Government is pulled down? I want to know categorically from the hon. Home Minister.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Narayanasamy.

SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM (West Bengal): He has nothing to say.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: You will know what I am going to say.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now listen to him carefully.

SHRI V NARAYANASAMY: The law and order situation in Assam because of the Bodo agitation is very serious. It shows the inefficiency of the State Government to tackle the Bodo agitation. Whatever may be the demands of the agitators, the State Government should have sorted them out. They should have been called for negotiations and after discussing the issues they should have arrived at some settlement. They have not done it. Therefore, the State Government, which was not in a position to control the situation, approached...

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: The State Government has sorted out their demands, 89 demands have already been fulfilled. I have documents with me.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think he is asking clarification from the Home Minister.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am sure the Home Minister will have the information. I expect that.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Are you the Chief Minister of Assam?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: In our country we have seen that the separatist forces are working in the name of religion, in the name of caste and they would like to create tension in various States. Thereby they are trying to divide this country. But we made our stand very clear. When the Gorkhaland issue was there, the State Government was not in a position to settle the problem. Apart from that, the West Bengal Government was supplying weapons to the Communist leaders of that region of Darjeeling to counter the agitation. In spite of that they were not in a position to settle it. But the Prime Minister intervened and then the issue was settled. The Home Minister was fully responsible for settling the Gorkhaland agitation. This is history. Every one knows how the Gorkhaland issue was settled. But the people who are sitting there on the other side, especially the leaders from West Bengal, are forgetting the past and they are accusing the Centre. If really the Central Government had any idea to create problem there in West Bengal, it is just one minute's job for the Central Government. But they are forgetting it in spite of the Prime Minister's assurance that the country had already seen one partition and no more partition of the country would be allowed. That was the categorical statement of the Prime Minister.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: May I invite him to make tarouble in West Bengal? Come and make an attempt.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I have visited West Bengal. I addressed trade union leaders there in West Bengal. You need not teach me anything. (*Interruptions*) Madam, hon. Prime Minister, when the Chief Minister of West Bengal was afraid of going to Darjeeling, went there. It is a matter of fact. Nobody can deny that. And the Prime Minister gave a call to the people of that area that we do not want any more partition of this country. (*Interruptions*) I am just stating the past. Why are you so much agitated?

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY (West Bengal): Please confine yourself to Assam?

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: You went to Tripura.

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Why are you talking about Darjeeling?

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Why did you talk about Tripura?

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: You do not know manners.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: You do not know manners. You can talk; but we cannot talk.

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: You have no right.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: You have no right.

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: You sit down.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: You sit down. You address the Chair.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think both of you sit down.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: As a student we read that slowly, hour by hour, we ripen and ripen. And slowly, hour by hour, we rot and rot. But I never knew that while ripening, we get rotten also.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Both of you sit down. Let us not get agitated.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: By the intervention of the Prime Minister, the Gorkhaland agitation was settled and the area is peaceful today.

Madam, as far as Bodo agitation is concerned, the Central Government is very much concerned to solve the problem.... There is not much for laughing. The country is burning and you are laughing. When the country is facing problems, the Communist Members are laughing here in this House....Madam, the Central Government is very much concerned about the Bodo agitation. When the Assam Chief Minister came here, the hon. Home Minister, in spite of his engagement in Parliament, had a meeting with them. Does it not go to show that the Central Government is concerned over the problem of Bodo agitation? But the hon. Members sitting on the other side say that the State Government is not in a position to settle it. I would like to give two important facts and seek clarification from the hon. Home Minister. The Police Chief of Assam has stated that the Bodo agitation, especially the Bodo Students Union, is getting mass support even from the ruling party members. That was the statement of the police chief. Apart from that, I go one step further and say, even the persons who are in the highest office in the AGP Government, have been supporting the agitation, but they are blaming the Centre. Is it not a fact? The Home Minister can clarify that point.

Secondly, Madam, how many lives have been lost because of this agita-

tion, how much property has been damaged and how much loss is there in production which has come to a standstill because of the several calls for agitations and strikes given by these agitationists?

Thirdly, I request the State Government to co-operate with the Central Government also for early settlement of the problem.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, I thought, this is a subject on which there would not be much heat.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: An agitation there can cause an agitation here also.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Madam, activities of the extremist elements and divisive forces, wherever they occur, are a matter of concern to the whole country and all parties. It is not that the ruling party seeks our support in the case of the extremists in Punjab and Kashmir and treats other extremists differently. I do not know. I do not want to make an accusation. In their anxiety to gain some short-term political advantage, some persons in the Union Government and the ruling party at the Centre are applying different standards to these agitations in various parts of the country. I can cite a number of things. Friends have cited the Gorkhaland agitation. In Andhra, when there was a caste conflict, the AICC has issued a statement supporting one side. When there was a demand for a separate Rayalaseema, their own party started the agitation. Like that I can cite a number of things.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: When your people killed a Congress MLA, will the Congress Party keep quiet?

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: That is all right. Murders are taking place. But you cannot support from the AICC a caste organisation. That is what I want to say.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: May I request the hon. Member? I thought, we would maintain that solemn atmosphere under which an agreement has been signed between me and the hon. Chief Minister of Assam. I am willing to discuss the political situation and the role of the political parties in various parties of the country. But this should not be the occasion. Therefore, I will request Shri Upendraji to confine his questions to the subject. If he wants some clarifications particularly on this issue, let him not jump from here to Hyderabad. We have many things. But let us work in the spirit of national unity since the hon. Chief Minister came all the way from Guwahati and he thought that in the national interest pernaps something could be done and we have agreed. There is no difference of opinion on this. I would like the hon. Members to maintain that kind of background under which the talks can be held and a solution can be found. For this you can have enough of platforms. You are free to do it, you are doing it.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: It is not a question of platform. It is only with a heavy heart that I am referring to these things. It is not a question of scoring a point over you.

I would like to put a straight question to the Home Minister: In the entire course of this agitation by the Bodo extremists, have you ever condemned them for any act? They have derailed many trains. They killed many people. They have been all along harassing the people by continuous bandhs. Have you ever straightaway condemned that agitation? That is my question. That is why I am telling all these things. You have not done that. You have given an impression that if they would go

[Shri Parvathaneni Upendra]

out of their way to demand something, the Centre would come into the picture. Of course you denied it later. You encouraged them to demand that the talks should be held in Delhi, not in Guwahati. All these things are happening. I do not want to accuse you for these things. But the impression is that somehow you have been soft towards them. That is one impression which the people get.

Secondly, our friend, Dr. Saikia, referred to a newspaper item in the "SUNDAY OBSERVER" dated August 6. The RAW is not under the control of the Home Minister. I know it is under the Cabinet Secretariat. To that extent he is out of this blame. But I would like to bring two paragraphs from that to his notice. I quote these for his information and action.

> "In a recent meeting with The Sunday Observer correspondent, a middle-ranking Special Security Bureau (SSB) Officer, admitted the role of his organisation in training the Bodo youths to manufacture crude, but highly effective explosive devices using commonly available substances like detergent powder, NPK fertilisers and charcoal."

There is another paragraph in the same report, which says — I don't give any names as per your directive:-

> "The Assam Police sources say the link man between the Bodo extremist leaders, the SSB and the Cabinet Secretariat is an Indian Police Service Officer of the Kerala cadre currently posted as the Deputy Inspector-General of Police commanding the Central Reserve Police Force group centre at Khanapara on the eastern outskirts of Guwahati."

These two points have appeared a few days ago. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether this has been brought to his notice. A number of names have been mentioned. Confessions of those Officers have been also mentioned in this report. Has he conducted an inquiry into this matter? How far is it true? If it is true, what action he has taken against those Officers if these activities are really taking pace without his knowledge? This must have come to his notice. I don't think such things are not brought to the notice of the Home Minister. What action has he taken?

Secondly, today the Chief Minister of Assam has met the hon. Home Minister. Is he satisfied in his talks with the State Chief Minister? I also met the Assam Chief Minister in the morning. I also had discussions with him. What specific assistance he wanted from the Union Government for controlling the situation and what assistance has the Union Home Minister promised him in this matter?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Chitta Basu. May I request the remaining Member also to be brief?

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The issue which we are now discussing is very serious. *The Sunday Oberver* has made some shocking revelations. It says that there are strong circumstantial evidences that the RAW of the Cabinet Secretariat is involved in training the extremists in the Bodoland agitation. It has further mentioned certain agencies of the Central Government — I do not want to mention names of the Officers, but agencies are agencies — Security agencies controlled by the Union Home Minister *viz* the Intelligence Bureau, Subsidiary intelligence Bureau (SIB) and the BSF are involved in the Bodoland agitation. The other organisations such as the Special Security Bureau (SSB) and the Special Frontier Force (SFF) are also involved. It is claimed by the author of the write-up that it is nobody else but the Assam Government which has made complaints that three senior IPS Officers are also involved in this matter. Now, naturally the House is

eager to know the truth about it. In order to search for the truth I want to know from the Home Minister what are the functions of the RAW. I think the House is entirely entitled to know the functions of the RAW. In this case why the RAW's name has been mentioned? Of course, it is not very much relevant but I may point out that RAW has been used for training some people in Tamil Nadu also. Therefore, the role of the RAW needs to be clarified. It is in the interest of all of us. Now, would the hon. Minister explain the functions, duties etc. of these above-mentioned organisations? SIB, SSB and SFF. What are their functions? When these bodies were constituted? What are the disciplines of the Central agencies. What is their role in this Bodo agitation as complained or alleged by many Members in this House and also by the Government of Assam?

Now, the statement made by the hon. Home Minister is nothing but a barren statement, barren statement in the sense that it only says that some agreement has been reached between him and the Chief Minister of Assam. What is that agreement? The agreement is both of them agreed to find a solution to the Bodo agitation within the bounds of the Constitution of the country. Did the Chief Minister of Assam or the AGP ever say anything which is unconstitutional? Do you expect that the Chief Minister of a State will not agree to solve a problem within the bounds of the Constitution of the country? This is what he has said. May I know from the Minister whether it is a fact that a section of the leadership of the Bodo agitation met separately Ministers of the Union Home Ministry on previous occasions also? Is it a fact that Bodo agitation leaders have made it a condition that they will talk with the Assam Government unless there is a representative on behalf of the Union Government? Why they put so much faith in the Union Government? Why they disbelieve the Government of Assam? ...(*Interruptions*). There is something wrong... (*Interruptions*)... That is the thing. You want you should also interfere in the internal affairs of Assam Government. That is your policy. It has become a general pattern of your policy. Whenever there are some forces of separatism or some forces of dissatisfaction either on ethnic issues or on the religious issues or on any issues, you just jump on that, just to take advantage of the situation and to create a condition, a climate of *estabilisation*. ..(*Interruptions*) ... Answer it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: What is the Government of India's attitude and proposal for the solution of the Bodo agitation? Do they want further vivisection of Assam? Can they categorically state here that there will not be further vivisection or partition of Assam State? Can they assure us that the existing Assam would remain as it is today? Is it a fact that the Government of India received complaints about the excesses committed by these Central agencies there? Is it a fact that the Government of Assam sought help from the Union Government to meet the situation arising out of the continued and prolonged bandhs?

Lastly, Madam, may I know from the Home Minister whether he has fixed up a date to meet the leaders of the agitation and representatives of the State Government of Assam to finally work out a political solution to the problem? Is it a fact that you also agreed that there is immediate necessity to restore normalcy in the Bodo areas so that there may not be further violence in those areas? What has been the response of the Government of Assam in respect of this?

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलूवालिया : उपसभापति महोदय, बोडो आन्दोलन के बारे में गृह मंत्री जी ने जो अपनी स्टेटमेंट दी है और बोडो आन्दोलन के बारे में जो हमारे पूर्व वक्ताओं ने क्लेरीफिकेशन पूरी है उससे हमें तो यह समझ आती है कि इसकी शुरुआत आल असम स्टुडेंट्स यूनियन वालों ने ही कराई थी । जिस वक्त उन्होंने आंदोलन शुरू किया था उस वक्त अपने साथियों को ऐसे सपने दिखाए कि उन्हें छोटे-छोटे राज्य बनाकर, छोटे-छोटे सूबे बनाकर देंगे । जब राज्य में सत्ता संभाली तो ऐसा महसूस हुआ कि उन्हें अलग-अलग राज्य बन कर नहीं दे सकते । एक ही राज्य असम राज्य रहेगा और वह असम भारत का हिस्सा रहेगा । अब इन्हें तकलीफ हो रही है ।

मैं आपके माध्यम से गृह मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि यह उपेन्द्र बर्मन पहले किस के साथ जुड़े हुए थे, किस पार्टी में थे और किस के साथ आंदोलन में सक्रिय थे ? दूसरी बात मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या असम में कोई ऐसा कानून था ब्रिटिश समय से कि असम की आर्म पुलिस में सिर्फ ट्राइबल लोगों को लिया जाएगा । बंदूकधारी सिर्फ ट्राइबल हो सकते थे ? वह कानून कब चेंज किया गया? यहां पर बात हो रही है कि बाहर से ट्रेनिंग दी जा रही है । मैं जानता हूं कि असम में ट्राइबल इलाके के लोग जितने भी पुलिस में काम करते थे, असम में आर्म पुलिस में, क्योंकि आर्म असम का आदमी पुलिस में काम नहीं कर सकता था, तो सेवा से अवकाश प्राप्त बोडो असम लोग जितने भी हैं वे पुलिस में ट्रेनिंग लिए हुए हैं, रिटायर्ड लोग जो है इलाके में सारे इस में इन्वाल्व हैं, उन्हें पुलिस की ट्रेनिंग की जरूरत नहीं है । ध्यान देने की बात है उपेन्द्र जी ने अभी बताया कि वहां पर जो बम्ब बनाए जा रहे हैं वे क्रूड बम्ब बनाए जा रहे हैं । . .

श्री पर्वतनेनि उपेन्द्र : पड़े हैं ।

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलूवालिया : पड़े हुए हैं लेकिन सारे आफ इन्फारमेशन तो वहीं है आपका । आज जब उसको आरोप करते हैं कि रा दे रहे हैं, एस एफ एफ दे रहा है तो अगर उन्हें देना होता तो यह क्रूड बम्ब नहीं ग्रेनेड देते ।

उपसभापति : रां बम्ब नहीं देते ।

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलूवालिया : डिटरजेंट के बने हुए, जिलेटिन के बने हुए सैल ई नहीं करते । मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से यह पूछना चाहता हूं . . .

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Are you sure? (*Interruption*) . . .

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: I am hundred per cent sure that the CPI (M) has supplied them sophisticated arms. . . (*Interruptions*) . . .

मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूं कि अब तक बोडो एजिटेशन करने वालों के हाथ से जो आर्म्स पकड़े गए हैं वे ट्रेडीशनल आर्म्स हैं या सोफिस्टीकेटेड आर्म्स चाइना के या पाकिस्तान के या हिन्दुस्तान के बने हुए आर्म्स हैं ?

तीसरे मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि पिछले दिनों जुलाई के महीने में कुछ बोडो इलाके के गांव में असम पुलिस ने घुसकर वहां की औरतों को रेप किया है, लूटा है, घर जला दिए हैं, उनके जानवर छोड़ दिए हैं, उनका अनाज जला दिया है ऐसी घटनाओं में कितनी महिलाओं पर अत्याचार हुआ है और उन पुलिस अफसरों के खिलाफ कोई केस दर्ज हुआ है या नहीं ? उस पर राज्य सरकार ने क्या एक्शन लिया है और अगर नहीं लिया है तो केन्द्रीय सरकार उस पर क्या करने जा रही है ?

मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से एक और बात पूछना चाहता हूं कि बोडो आन्दोलन में जो बोडो स्टुडेंट्स यूनियन हैं इसके कितने ग्रुप हैं ? मुझे पता लगा है कि इनके दो ग्रुप हैं जो असम सरकार के मंत्री लोग चला रहे हैं । एक ग्रुप ओवर ग्राऊंड है और जो दूसरा ग्रुप है उसके लोग अंडरग्राऊंड चले गए हैं । इसमें कोई तथ्य है या नहीं इस पर प्रकाश डालने की कृपा करें ।

7.00 P.M.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Madam Deputy Chairman, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity and through you, I congratulate the hon. Home Minister on the agreement that has been signed today. I also welcome the Assam Chief Minister for the new initiatives that he has taken from today. Madam, I am pained to learn, I am pained to hear some of the speeches made by the learned Members of the Opposition because they are trying to use this discussion for levelling charges against one or the other. As a Member from Assam, I am pained to learn this. Madam, what is happening in Assam is a matter of serious concern for all of us, particularly for the Members of Assam because it is our people who are suffering. They may be Bodos, they may be Assamese, they may be Bengalis, they may be anybody, but they are the citizens of Assam and they are suffering and they are our brothers and sisters. Madam,

.....(*Interruptions*).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Citizens of India.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: A citizen of Assam is a citizen of India. (Interruptions). Madam, it is known to everybody. Any sane citizen of this country knows what was happening there through newspapers and quite a number of them have visited those places where these incidents has happened. Nobody can deny that initially the district administration of those places were in a quandary, because of the lack of proper policies to tackle this, to handle this situation that has arisen out of the Bodo agitation demanding a separate State. Madam, the State Government cannot get away with charging the Centre that the Centre has not helped. Whatever the State Government has requested, the Central Government has given that and whatever the security and safety that was supposed to be given by the State Government to the people of Assam people of those affected areas, there the State Government has failed. Today, our brothers and sisters are suffering there. Communal tension has started with one group attacking the other. It is the State Government who has to give them the security. It is the State Government who is responsible for their security and safety. Instead of taking proper steps there, they have tried to divert the attention of the people and tried to divert the issue levelling some charges against one or the other. Madam, this is not the time to trade charges. This is the time to take things very seriously. I congratulate the hon. Home Minister on taking such serious steps. I only want to put one question to him. Will the Central Government intervene, as a party, at least at this stage to find out a political solution within the framework of the Constitution to the Bodo agitation? Thank you, Madam.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman, sometime back, when you were not in the Chair, we had occasion to walk out of the House in the course of the Home Minister's statement just on the eve of the Prime Minister's arrival in the House. At that time, I made a remark, which, perhaps was a bit personnel that the Home Minister is becoming a law and order problem. But from what has been raised here in course of clarifications the question which really arises is whether the Home Ministry will continue to be a law and order problem in the country. What has been happening in Assam for quite some time is known to all. But before today's agreement between the Home Minister and the Chief Minister of Assam there was no direct communication between these two Governments, and the Government of India did not follow the usual procedure of taking

[Prof. Sourendra Bhattacharjee]

the State Government into confidence. This approach has given rise to many apprehensions in the minds of the people of different States. It won't be very pleasing to go into the past, what happened in Darjeeling, what happened elsewhere in the country. What happened in Tamil Nadu is reaping the whirlwind in the form of a great impasse in Sri Lanka. These things are there. Other points have been raised by other friends and I won't traverse that ground. But it is really regrettable that again and again the name of the Government of India comes whenever there is some unrest in any part of the country where an elected Government of a non-Congress Party is functioning. There is very little time for this Government to live down that legacy. But anyway, would the Home Minister ensure that after this agreement with the Chief Minister of Assam he would try to take steps in consultation with the Government of Assam in all cases, even where there are differences, without giving occasion to various suspicions or dissensions? It is not very pleasant to hear that this thing is being done by wrong and that thing is done by right. That should not be the position of any Governmental agency whether Central or State, in the country. Nobody, whether Mr. Buta Singh or Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, will accept that they have shown utter worthlessness in Punjab... (*Interruption*) Why? I can name the Prime Minister and the Home Minister; not any official who is not present. But I can name the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. They are omnipresent. The question is that on that ground we cannot say that they were worthless and there is no use blaming the Assam Government for what happened during all this time. But now that the Home Minister found time to come to an agreement with the Chief Minister of Assam would he assure the House that he would pursue the course of pacification in an area of Assam which is really on the border of West Bengal, pacification through the fulfilment of their legitimate aspirations? Thank you.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Madam, I would like to share with the honourable Members, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta and Mr. Sen the concern shown by them for the principles of democracy and stability. But I would have been happier if they had shown the same respect to Behrampur in West Bengal. Anyway, that is a different matter because we are discussing the Bodo agitation now.

Madam, I would not like to debate on this. But it is for the Home Minister to answer the points on the different issue raised by Mr. Nagen Saikia. He was indulging in a sort of Morganism. Morgan was a Shakespeare critic and he only speculated beyond the range of the drama itself. So, it will be up to the Home Minister to answer his Morganism. But I am very happy that our Chief Minister, Shri Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, has met the honourable Home Minister and that they have shown sincere interest and serious concern and they have tried to solve the longstanding problem. Madam, Assam is our land and we want a united Assam within the framework of our Constitution and we do not want any further division of Assam. Though belated, I welcome this effort, this new initiative, on the part of the Chief Minister of Assam.

Madam, there is a saying. Cardinal Newman once said that to think correctly is to think like Aristotle. And, Madam, what was Aristotle's idea of justice? He said once: "Justice consists in tolerance of the majority towards the minority." My first question to the honourable Home Minister is this: Is it a fact that the genesis of this Bodo agitation is the differential treatment meted out to the Bodo people by the Assam Government? Then, I come to question No. 2.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: It originated in 1976.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: He is referring to that Government also. He is going to the root of the dispute... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Is it a fact that the ULFA —you know that the ULFA is a militant organization and they are terrorists—people have killed many people and, after killing the UMF leader, Shri Kalipada Sen, they took shelter in Dispur in the house of somebody? (*Interruptions*)...I do not want to take the name of anybody... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Madam, this is wrong... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: I have not said anything. I only said, "in the house of somebody"... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Why are you objecting? He has not said anything. He only said, "in the house of somebody". Somebody means it may be anybody... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: I only said, "in the house of somebody" and I have not said anything else... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: He has not said anything. It is only Mr. Saikia who said... (*Interruptions*)....

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: I have not stated anything. You have stated... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: You have said it. You check up the records.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Madam, her spontaneous reaction really creates an atmosphere of suspicion... (*Interruptions*)... I was saying that the ULFA activities took shelter in the house of somebody in Dispur and it is a matter of history and everybody knows who that somebody is and where the house is. But I just mentioned it by way of reference only.

Madam, after killing Mr. Kalipada Sen—it has come out in the newspapers—they have threatened, "We will go and teach them a lesson." Is it a fact?... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Madam, we are discussing the Bodo problem.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: They have said, 'We will teach them a lesson and we will have a tooth for a tooth and an eye for an eye. Is it a fact or not?... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Madam, we are discussing the Bodo agitation and he is talking about something else... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Madam, you try to make her understand... (*Interruptions*)... Madam, you kindly try to make her understand. I am speaking in English... (*Interruptions*)... Madam, you kindly try to make her understand; I am speaking in English... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: But speak sense... (*Interruptions*)...

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Madam, Mr. Kamalendu Bhattacharjee is a lecturer in English and Mrs. Bijoya Chakravarty also is a lecturer in English and so, I do not think anybody should teach them English... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: I am asking the Deputy Chairman to make her understand.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not a student of literature, but I am a student of science only.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Madam, the ULFA activists have threatened and in some cases they have claimed also that they have killed some Bodo activists.

I condemn violence, Madam. From the core of my heart I condemned violence. I condemn Bodo violence. I also condemn State violence. If the police does some sort of excess I condemn it.

I want to know from the hon. Minister, is it a fact that the ULFA activitists killed some Bodo activists and they have owned these killings? I want to know how many cases of rape by the police have been there and what action has been taken by the Assam Government there? Thank you, Madam.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: I want to make only one point. I want to know whether an official of the Royal Bhutan Government has been killed by the Bodo extremists when he suddenly came across a guerrilla camp on the border of Bhutan area.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Madam Deputy Chairman, as I started my statement by my submission, in right earnest, a situation has developed in which we hope that with the sincere efforts of the Assam Governfent, the Government of India and the leaders of the agitation we will be able to find some solution under the Constitution of India. I expected that with this hope in my mind I will get patronage of this august House in which the elder statesmen of the country sit. But unfortunately in spite of instead of giving me their blessings and extending to me their..

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: No, no. We all wish you the best in arriving at a settlement in Assam. (*Interruptions*) We all wish you the best.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: But I am getting a bang. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is a misunderstanding. (*Interruptions*). We wish you to succeed.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: I was expecting that I will have a helping hand. This has not come about just on the spur of the moment. My colleague Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev, was in Assam. He met the hon. Chief Minister the day before yesterday. Previously also on a number of occasions the hon. Home Minister of Assam, the hon. Chief Minister of Assam and other colleagues, whenever they used to come and meet us myself and my colleagues, we have been very seriously thinking of trying to find out some way in which this brutal killing of people and this violence in Assam could stop the sufferings of the people could be stopped and we could bring about some kind of a solution of the problem. Madam, it is wrong to say that the Government of India has not helped the Assam Government. On a number of occasions in the other House, in this House and in the Consultative Committee I myself, my colleagues and the hon. Prime Minister, have gone on record that this being a purely local issue we have entrusted and we believe and we hope that the Assam Government will be able to find some solution and we are here to extend all help to the Assam Government. No occasion can any hon. Member point out where I have sounded any note against the Government of Assam. There may be occasions when my colleagues and hon. Members from this side might have highlighted some of the feelings of the Assam Government Rightly. But on no accasion have I said anything against the Assam Government. On the contrary we have extended our solid material help—33 companies of CRP,

6 companies of Assam Rifle 5 com-
panies of BSF and a lot f force
from the Indian Railways—t see that
the link between the north st and
the rest of the country for oviding
essential supplies is maintain . Even
the Army had gone to the lp of
the Assam Government for aintain-
ing the lifeline for the p ple of
Assam and all north-eastern tes. It
is really surprising and I a really
disappointed today that hon. mbers
chose this occasion to hurl al inds...
May I have humbly submit hat the
so called points of clarifica ns of
hon. Members can at best be des-
cribed as charges? They hav sought
to level charges through the larifica-
tions.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPEN-
DRA: It was based on newsp per re-
ports. We did not say anyt g on
our own.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: My biggest
problem is that they treat t press
reports as gospel truth in hig y sen-
sitive matters of internal curity.
They even criticise some of ir ser-
vices which are engaged in m ntain-
ing the internal security of o coun-
try. They are speaking abo them
so lightly and so shabbily.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPEN-
DRA: You don't contradict h re-
ports. You don't take us in confi-
dence. You don't brief us. w do
you expect us to be up-to-d ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: I can give
certificate to some of the m zines
that they are responsible or res-
ponsible. That is not my job Maybe
it is your job to give that d of
a certificate.

SHRI PARVATHANENI PEN-
DRA: The name of your dep ment
is mentioned. Why can't you ntra-
dict?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Mada you
know that it is published in day's

n spapers that one of
ha been asked by the
to ive a public apolog
pu shed something again
M ster of a State. Th
of eports that you b
yo come all the way
Ho e to level charges
Go rnment.

RI GURUDAS D
Is your general con
ne papers?
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[Shri Buta Singh]

English vocabulary is very limited—every charge by a suitable adjective. To my mind, I can best describe them as absurd, astonishing, baseless, careless, capricious, false, fabricated, fanciful, ficititious, far-fetched, imaginar, irrtlevant, inspired, irresponsible, meaningless, mindless, motivated and malicious.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Can you repeat them with out seeing the notes?

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: I want to ask one thing.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Madam, English is a wonderful language.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Saikia, I think you took the maximum time. Let the Minister answer to what you have already spoken. You made a long speech. Let him speak now. Please sit down. Don't disrupt. Let him answer.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, he is giving us a lesson in English. He is telling all the English words. He is not replying. He is giving us English words. It is no reply.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: I will touch upon a few suggestions that the hon. Members have made. I was told by my teacher that when your vocabulary gets exhausted, you can say etc. etc. etc.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Madam, we want to know the hard facts. Now, let me make one thing very clear in this House that we have already said and I want to repeat that Government of India will not allow anybody to have any division of Assam, whether in the name of language or religion or caste or even their hand-picked militants. Nobody will be allowed to play with the unity of Assam...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: We welcome your statement.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: ...Assam has suffered a lot.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: We welcome it.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: We are committed on that.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Madam, now the question is that the student leaders came and met me. Madam, long before the agitation was started, a delegation had come. They met the hon. Prime Minister. They met me. They met most of the leaders. And they gave a memorandum which I forwarded to the Assam State Government. I discussed with the hon. Chief Minister of Assam. *(Interruption)* I cannot off hand give you the dates. At an appropriate time, when the discussion takes place, definitely I will give you the details of all that. But this is nothing new.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: It is denied on the 27th of July.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please have some patience. Look at me. I am hearing everything for two hours.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: The hon. Member, Mr. Saikia...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: He should come to the point.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: The hon. Member must know that before the AGP Government was formed, our friends, their colleagues—Shri Mohunta, Shri Phukan and all these AASU leaders used to come to Delhi and they used to meet the Government and some of the important leaders. Smilarly in the case of Gurkhaland or TNV, all these agitations have been brought to an end through some kind of a negotiation, and I thought I will also place on record my appreciation of the hon. Chief Minister that he has come out and he has shown his willingness, that he has

agreed to make an attempt to find some solution. (*Interruptions*) Madam, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta and Shri Sukomal Sen have unnecessarily brought in two or three matters which have nothing to do with this Bodo agitation, the matter of Tripura, the matter of GNLF. Let me tell you, in the best possible Centre-State relations, the GNLF solution could not have been possible if there was no complete report between the Government of West Bengal and the Government of India.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: That is the subsequent part of the story.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Despite our hon. friends, we have been able to bring a very successful, peaceful negotiation, and an agreement has been signed which is working. It could not have...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Mr. Singh, that is the subsequent part of the story. That is not the beginning of the story.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: It could not have happened if there was lack of confidence, if there was no rapport between the State Government and the Government of India.

On Tripura, Madam, much has been said in this House earlier... (*Interruptions*)... and now all those three steps were taken meaning thereby declaring certain parts of Tripura as disturbed area, then giving the responsibility to the Central police organisations, and taking the help of some sections of the Army. It was all agreed in writing. The hon. Chief Minister and myself had a long discussion, a full-day discussion with all the officers of the Tripura Government and some senior officers from Delhi. The whole scheme was devised as a result of a long, prolonged negotiation. I do not know how and why the hon. Members can come to this House... (*Interruptions*)

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: You are bringing up an old story. It is not true.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BUTA SINGH: And the beauty is, Madam Deputy Chairman, till today... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: ...He was doing all the best to paralyse the Tripura Government there. Let him say no.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Madam Deputy Chairman, till today... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: He was maintaining clandestine connections with the bureaucracy...

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Till today the former Chief Minister of Tripura has not disowned it. I do not know how the hon. Members can disown it. Madam, I am very sure...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Mr. Singh, Let Mr. Dev say that he did not have any connection with bureaucracy in Tripura. Let him deny it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, have some patience please.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Madam, left alone, I have every hope...

(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You cannot make it into a debate. I don't mind sitting till 12 o'clock. But I will expect all of you to be here.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: And give us a Dinner also.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dinner is no problem.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Madam, these Bodo students who are now heading this agitation were earlier part of the AASU and the AGP. They were

[Shri Buta Singh]

their own people. I do not know how and when they fell out. I do not know why parts of Bodos are still working with the active support of some of the Ministers in the Assam Government. And it is not open for the hon. Members to sit here and point an accusing finger on the Government of India. We have a lot of things to do. We do not indulge in such things. And, let me tell you, whether it is Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, West Bengal, Assam, no Government in the States have ever come with this sort of a thing, I mean all the Chief Ministers have relations with us, I mean we have personal relationship we talk to each othtr. At no point of time any Chief Minister has at any point of time complained including Mohantaji that you have destabilised. I do not know from where the hon. Members get this kind of information. I would humbly advise them not to go by those press reports which are inspired, I do not know by whom. But I will request them one thing that if they help instead of raking up this kind of a thing here in this House, if they help the hon. Chief Minister by mobilising their own public position and their influence in their respective constituencies to maintain, peace, law and order in the State, they will be doing a service to the people of Assam.

I am sorry, Madam, sometimes the so-called advisers, they put funny ideas into the minds of the Chief Ministers and the Chief Minister feel detracted and when they come here, I talk to them, they say, we were told this, we were told that. I will request the hon. Members to use their good offices, now that a good beginning is sought to be made, to lend constructive support to this new beginning and with the help of the Assam Government, with the help of the Government of India, if we are able to bring about a peaceful solution to this thorny problem, we will be doing a great service to the country and to the people of Assam. And I hope all parties will extend support to us.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till eleven o'clock tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at thirtytwo minutes past seven of the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 10th August, 1989.

MGIPMRND—550 RS—RS—I